

Strengthening the Bonds of Chicano Youth & Families

Brief Program Description

Strengthening the Bonds of Chicano Youth and Families (El Proyecto de Nuestra Juventud) is a community-based, culturally appropriate intervention model for rural, Hispanic youth conducted in an agricultural area of Central Arizona. The project was conceived and implemented by the Pinal Hispanic Council, a minority, non-profit organization based in the city of Eloy.

Strengthening the Bonds of Chicano Youth and Families is a comprehensive, multi-level community-based and culturally appropriate program designed to meet the prevention needs of rural Chicano youth demonstrating high-risk characteristics of substance abuse. The program is rooted in a family-oriented approach that is based on Mexican American culture, values, and principles.

Program Strategies

The interventions are based on the theoretical framework of Hawkins and Catalano that promotes reduction of risk factors and strengthening of protective factors and resiliency. Interventions address four life domains: Barrio Life (community domain), School domain, Familia (Family) domain, and Individual/Peer domain.

The project utilizes a combination of culturally appropriate interventions with youth and families. Family interventions include camps (campamentos) and platicas (informal talks). Youth interventions include peer support groups and workshops. Community interventions include a homework center, a mural project, and a theater (teatro) project. Both youth and adults completed the Acculturation Rating Scale for Mexican Americans.

Population Focus

The project recruited youth from the target areas of the City of Eloy and the neighboring community of Picacho, both rural agricultural areas. Youth were recruited with certain risk factors including siblings of substance users, children of substance users, juvenile delinquents, children at risk of becoming teen parents, children at risk of dropping out of school, and children residing in public housing.

Suitable Settings

The intervention is suitable for a community-based setting.

Required Resources

None specified.

Implementation Timeline

Each youth was involved an average of 1.6 years.

Outcomes

Results included:

- A significant difference was found comparing pre-test and post-test scores for the experimental group on family relations, but not for the control group.
- For the experimental group, alcohol use decreased significantly from pre- to post-test. No significant difference was found for the control group.
- For the experimental group, other drug use decreased significantly from pre- to post-test. No significant difference was found for the control group.

Contact Information

For indepth information on this program, please use the contact listed below.

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